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REPORT ON SELF-EVALUATION OF SUB-PROGRAMME 2: DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME: POPULATION IN AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

1. The self-evaluation exercise is being undertaken for two main reasons: (a) as a managerial tool to help the Population Division to assess whether its work programme activities respond to member States' needs as reflected in the Medium-term Plan (MTP), and (b) to fulfil the specific request of the Secretary-General, in response to requests of Member States to start making evaluation as an integral part of the decision-making and management process so as to achieve the goals and objectives of the United Nations Organization. The evaluation relates only to subprogramme 2: Demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development. This is one of the three subprogrammes of the programme: Population in Africa. The other two subprogrammes are: (a) Population policies and development planning, and (b) Regional training and research. Headquarters had suggested the subprogramme under evaluation and the Population Division agreed with that suggestion.

2. The evaluation covers the period 1984-1988. It will be recalled that the 1984-1989 Medium-term Plan for the subprogramme under evaluation has the objectives which focus on applying techniques of demographic research within the context of socio-economic development in Africa, and to study and evaluate factors responsible for demographic trends and structural changes, especially those factors related to the social and economic situation and national characteristics. The problems addressed in the MTP were related to the fact that many African countries had not been able to analyse satisfactorily the demographic situation and trends and to relate them to socio-economic development because of a lack of sufficient methodology and data. There was, therefore, a lack of adequate knowledge of the interrelationship between population and development and the impact of each of these on the other. Consequently, the strategy envisaged in the 1984-1989 MTP was to involve continuation of the study of the demographic situation in the African region and analysis of the demographic data on (a) the patterns, differentials, causes and implications of fertility levels and trends; (b) trends in the solution of specific fertility problems such as the low fertility levels in some countries in the region; (c) levels, patterns, differentials and trends of mortality, especially infant and childhood mortality and their relationship to socio-economic development; (d) problems of rapid rural/urban migration, population distribution and redistribution and their socio-economic implications. Assistance to member States in analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data, training workshops on demographic analysis for nationals of member States are essential elements of the subprogramme. Dissemination of research activities of the secretariat on population to member States through the various publications is an important aspect, as well, in improving the demographic situation and promoting awareness of population issues in development.

3. The evaluation examined the design of the subprogramme in the MTP and then proceeded to evaluate the various outputs in the subprogramme in the areas of advisory services to member States in evaluating and analysing demographic and related data from censuses and surveys; advisory services on middle-level training, workshops in demographic analysis, advisory services on on-the-job training for nationals in demographic analysis; research studies

by the secretariat; and publications of the secretariat. The intention was to evaluate all the outputs for the period under review. However, this was not possible. Some few outputs were left out due to the fact that questionnaires were not sent for evaluation or questionnaires were sent out late. On the whole, most of the outputs have been included. The approach of analysis on which the conclusions and recommendations have been drawn was to look at each output separately. The Evaluation Manual of the United Nations was used as a guide in the design and preparation of this evaluation.

4. It should be noted that an in-depth evaluation of the United Nations population programme was carried out for the period 1978-1983. The evaluation results are reported in the document entitled In-depth evaluation of the population programme. Report of the Secretary-General, E/AC.51/1985/9, 15 April 1986.

CONCLUSIONS

5. The evaluation revealed that there were weaknesses in the design of the subprogramme. These related to lack of specifying the intergovernmental objectives; lack of establishing time frame linkages of the strategy and the biennial programme budget and lack of established indicators as a basis for measuring the impact of the subprogramme. Consequently, the evaluation exercise was somehow hampered by these factors. There is need to take corrective measures in designing subprogrammes in the future.

6. However, the problems that were addressed in the subprogramme and the strategy adopted in the MTP have been reflected in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population which is the most recent guiding blueprint for the secretariat in formulating the work programme on population. This would be taken as an indication of the relevance of the subprogramme. The overall conclusions show that (a) the advisory services to member States with regard to analysis of demographic and related data, training at various levels for nationals of member States; (b) research studies by the secretariat; and (c) dissemination of its publications are playing a useful role in improving the demographic situation in the region. However, the major weakness which needs special attention is to improve the evaluation and monitoring of the activities of the subprogramme through a reasonable sample size of end-users, especially with regard to research studies and publications.

7. At the eighth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) in April 1987, ECA member States showed satisfaction at the secretariat's work on population dynamics and encouraged the secretariat to assist member States. The Committee called on the secretariat to continue research studies on population and development. This can be considered as an indication of relevance of the secretariat's activities to the needs of member States.

8. The analysis indicates that advisory services to member States in analysis of demographic data was effective. The low response rates on research studies make it difficult to make generalized statements on the effectiveness of the studies. The overall assessment of the three publications evaluated indicates that their quality in general was satisfactory and respondents considered them as serving a useful purpose. The various training assistance

provided by the secretariat are indicated to have had an impact according to the analysis. It is rather difficult to make categorical statements or conclusions on the impact of the subprogramme activities. However, as the demographic situation is being better understood and appreciated in Africa, it is felt that the activities of the subprogramme have some contribution and impact on member States. There is need to intensify and improve the quality and delivery of the outputs of the subprogramme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Recommendations addressed to the programme manager

9. This is the first self-evaluation undertaken on a large scale. One of the major problems encountered in the evaluation was related to the design of the subprogramme itself. The subprogramme, as designed, did not specify the intergovernmental objective; the strategy did not have any specified time linkages with the biennial programme budget; and indicators for measuring the effectiveness and impact of the subprogramme were also not included at the time of the design of the MTP. These lessons should be given special attention in the design of the next MTP.

10. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned problems, it was felt that the evaluation exercise should still be completed to have a complete picture. It was observed that although all completed outputs were despatched to end-users, no records were kept as to whom they were sent and who had actually received the outputs. This is particularly true for research studies and publications. Consequently, when evaluation questionnaires were administered, the response rate was disappointing. The low response rate was due partly to the fact that the supposed end-users indicated that they did not receive the outputs that were being evaluated. In many instances, institutions like libraries were thought of as end-users, while in effect they were not, as most of such institutions had indicated they were not in a position to evaluate the studies and publications sent to them but they wanted to continue to receive the publications for use by their customers. In some cases, the end-users of some of the publications were people out of the African region. Another problem that must have contributed to the low response rate must be related to the long time lag between receipt of the research studies or publications and the evaluation exercise. There were a number of observations made by respondents that publications or research studies reach them late. Unfortunately, results of the in-depth evaluation of the population programme came out somewhat late to have been of maximum use for the present evaluation.

11. The design of the questionnaires was rather rushed, with the effect that the questionnaires for the evaluation of publications was not appropriate for that purpose in a number of cases. Some few questionnaires did not have adequate identification of the particular output that was being evaluated. With so many outputs on which questionnaires had been administered at the same time, this caused some problems during the analysis stage. Some respondents were not happy about the number of questionnaires they had to reply to.

12. In order to improve the effectiveness and impact of the subprogramme, the programme manager needs to take into account the following recommendations:

(a) Design and preparation of the subprogramme in the MTP:

(i) the subprogramme should have intergovernmental objective and the secretariat's objectives shown clearly and separately. The problems addressed and the strategy adopted should be linked to the intergovernmental objectives and needs;

(ii) the secretariat's strategy should have time frame linkages to the biennial programme budget;

(iii) indicators for assessing effectiveness and impact of the subprogramme should also be included in the subprogramme;

(b) Design and conduct of self-evaluation:

(i) adequate time should be given to the preparation of the questionnaires using the guidelines in the United Nations Evaluation Manual;

(ii) all questionnaires should have adequate identification for the output being evaluated;

(iii) focus should be on identifiable end-users wherever possible in the African region. Institutions like libraries should not be regarded as end-users;

(iv) when completed outputs are mailed to end-users, a receipt or acknowledgement form for each output should be included to be completed by the end-user and returned to the secretariat. Such information would serve as a basis for the selection of end-users for evaluation at a later stage;

(v) there should be a reasonable time lapse between despatch of the output to end-users and its evaluation. The time lag should not be too long and it should also not be too short. This may vary, depending on the type of output. A period of one year may be considered reasonable;

(vi) when a reasonable time has elapsed without receiving the evaluation questionnaires from respondents, reminders should be sent;

(vii) there is need to maintain records on dates when publications, research studies and mission reports are sent to end-users;

(c) Advisory services on analysis of demographic and related data and training:

(i) there is need for the findings of missions to be discussed thoroughly with those concerned in the countries before the mission leaves the country. This would maximize the chances of implementation of the recommendations of missions;

(ii) action should be taken to speed up the processing of mission reports and their despatch to member States;

(iii) regarding middle-level training, adequate time should be provided to application of tools and techniques during training sessions;

(d) Research studies and publications:

(i) dissemination of research studies and publications should be improved, as indicated in (b) above;

(ii) processing and production of final outputs at the end of the year face bottlenecks. Action needs to be taken to avoid this through preparation of drafts much earlier;

(iii) every effort should be made to improve the quality of the studies and publications by using most up-to-date data wherever possible;

(iv) publications should include a list of recent publications in the field of population;

(v) the newsletter should include events on population in various countries in the region and include experiences from other developing countries;

(vi) relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme (Doc. E/AC.51/1986/9) should continually be taken into account. (Findings of that evaluation and recommendations are summarized in annex VI).

(b) Recommendations beyond the competence of the programme manager

13. The secretariat does not have adequate translation and editing services. Research studies and most of the publications are prepared either in English or French. Hence, the publications and research studies prepared do not benefit all member States. There is also need to improve printing and cover page presentation, especially for research studies and some of the publications. Some problems were experienced in trying to give a better cover page presentation to research studies given prevailing rules with reference to research studies. It is therefore recommended to the ECA secretariat to:

(a) Find solutions to translation of research studies and publications from English to French and vice-versa in order that most member States benefit from the outputs delivered by the secretariat;

(b) Explore and find ways of making better printing and cover page presentation of ECA research studies and publications through computerization and automation;

(c) Find solutions to the problems of editing certain publications and studies.

ANALYSIS

(a) Overview

14. The evaluation of the present subprogramme covered selected outputs related to advisory services to member States, on request, on (a) evaluating and analysing data from population censuses and surveys and vital registration systems; (b) on-the-job training and middle-level training; conducting a regional training workshop on techniques of fertility and mortality analysis; research studies; and publications. Implementation of those programmed outputs was made possible through resources from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources. The extrabudgetary resources were mainly utilized on advisory services to member States. All these resources were programmed.

15. It is essential at this point to start by reviewing the subprogramme design in the MTP and then assess the implementation of programmed outputs. The design of the subprogramme in the 1984-1989 MTP lacked the following aspects in its formulation: (a) intergovernmental objectives were not shown; (b) the strategy did not specify the activities for each biennial programme budget; (c) indicators for change were not given. All these factors make it difficult to objectively assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the subprogramme to the needs of member States. These problems have to be addressed in the design of the MTP. However, the secretariat's objectives, the problems it was addressing and the strategy it proposed at its formulation were, it is assumed, a genuine attempt to respond to the needs of member States. The efforts of the secretariat have made some contribution, though this cannot be quantified, in trying to solve population-related problems. In ECA resolution 506 (XIX) of 1984, for example, on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA) on Population and Self-reliant Development, member States directed the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to include the principles, objectives and the recommendations of the KPA in the work programme of the Commission. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) has also called on ECA member States to implement the KPA recommendations as an integral part of socio-economic development.

16. Though the design of the subprogramme had some weaknesses, it will be noted that the secretariat's strategy for the subprogramme under review reflects the KPA recommendations. On the basis of analysis of questionnaires, it is observed that (a) advisory services to member States with regard to

analysis of demographic and related data, training at various levels for nationals of member States; (b) research studies by the secretariat; and (c) dissemination of its publications are playing a useful role in improving the demographic situation in the region and hence will assist in the integration of population in socio-economic development. In its report to the twenty-second session of the Commission in April 1987, the eighth meeting of TEPCOW showed satisfaction with the secretariat's work on population dynamics and encouraged the secretariat to continue research studies on population and development (see para. 327 of the report, document E/ECA/CM.13/58 of 21 April 1987). This can be taken as an indication of the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the work of the secretariat in the field of population.

17. Apart from the major problem of the design of the subprogramme, the other problem in the current evaluation related to lack of monitoring of output delivery to end-users. This resulted in response rates which were poor, especially with regard to research studies and publications. Remedial action is called for in this area.

18. With regard to more specific observations on the subprogramme, these are summarized below:

(b) Relevance

19. The MTP had identified problems of lack of satisfactory analysis of the demographic situation and trends and their relation to socio-economic development in many African countries. To help address these problems, the secretariat adopted the objectives of the subprogramme which focused on application of demographic research in the context of socio-economic development in Africa to study and evaluate factors responsible for demographic trends and structural changes related to the social and economic situation and national characteristics. It is noted that since the 1984-1989 MTP was adopted, an increasing number of African countries have undertaken demographic analysis in relation to socio-economic development and the demographic situation and trends are becoming better understood and appreciated as they relate to socio-economic development. It is felt that the secretariat's efforts in its activities to assist member States through advisory services in demographic analysis, on-the-job training, other training, research studies on population dynamics and publications on population have made some contribution to the improvement in understanding the demographic situation and trends. Since demographic problems are of long nature in finding solutions, it is felt that the problems addressed in the MTP are still relevant. The same is true of the secretariat's strategy. ECA's resolution 506 (XIX) on the KPA and UN-PAAERD resolution S-13/2 all emphasize the problems addressed and the strategy adopted.

(c) Effectiveness

20. Based on the specific evaluations that have been done, although the response rate was generally very low, it is concluded that:

(a) Advisory missions to member States related to data analysis were effective as respondents indicated generally that immediate objectives of the missions were accomplished, and recommendations of the missions were implemented though after some delay in some cases;

(b) On-the-job training, middle-level training and the regional training workshop were effective as the majority of the respondents reported that these training activities achieved their immediate objectives; moreover, most of the respondents indicated that they benefited from the training;

(c) Research studies on population and related areas were considered by most of the respondents as being effective. However, the response rates on research studies were very low and this makes it difficult to make a categorical assessment on their impact. With regard to the publications, the quality was considered to be satisfactory and that they serve a useful purpose. Unfortunately, it was not possible to evaluate the effectiveness from the way the questionnaires for publications were designed; the same was true for the evaluation of the impact of the publications.

21. In terms of assessing effectiveness as to whether the programmed outputs were implemented as programmed, the following information from programme performance reports show that:

(a) Regional advisory services to member States, on request, were generally implemented as programmed; in some cases, however, due to the secretariat's procedures of clearing missions, delays were experienced in rendering advisory services;

(b) With regard to the four research studies under evaluation, one study (Impact de l'evolution du role de femme sur la fecondite : Cas de quelques pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) was implemented as programmed; three studies were reformulated but implemented. Two of these studies (a) Interrelationships among infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries, and (b) Niveaux, tendances, facteurs de la fecondite au Cameroun, au Kenya et au Senegal, were originally programmed as reports to the fourth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers but were reformulated and implemented as technical studies because they were too technical and bulky for the meeting. However, they were distributed to users including participants to the Joint Conference. The third study, on mortality levels, patterns and differentials in Africa, was reformulated and implemented as a comparative study on approval by the ECA Conference of Ministers (see E/ECA/CM.13/36).

(c) With regard to the three publications under evaluation, they were all implemented as programmed.

22. Some of the factors that affected the implementation of the subprogramme related to delays in typing and submitting reports of advisory services missions to end-users; lack of proper monitoring of end-users to whom studies and publications were sent, as well as delays in sending research studies and publications to end-users. Constraints due to inadequate secretaries was one of the major problems in implementing outputs of the subprogramme.

(d) Impact

23. It is somehow difficult to make specific conclusions on impact of regional advisory services on data analysis as the missions being evaluated in some cases were for a brief period and one can hardly measure the impact. However, as most countries that were assisted indicated that they had implemented the missions' recommendations, it can be inferred that advisory services had some impact where they were provided. As for on-the-job training and the regional training workshop, most of the respondents said that they had used what they had learned and shared the knowledge with other colleagues in the office. Hence, the training had an impact on the trainees. A similar conclusion was observed regarding middle-level training.

24. The in-depth evaluation of the United Nations population programme which covered the period 1976-1983 whose results are in the Report of the Secretary-General (document E/AC.51/1986/9) of 15 April 1986 included three outputs from the ECA subprogramme under review. These were Demographic Handbook for Africa, 1980, Population Dynamics: Fertility and Mortality in Africa: Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Fertility and Mortality Levels and Trends in Africa and their Policy Implications, Monrovia, 26 November - 1 December 1979 (ST/ECA/SER.A/1) and African Population Newsletter, nos. 26-33, 34-37 and 38-41. The findings of that evaluation showed that the activities of the subprogramme had some impact (see paras. 62, 72, 101-103 of document AC.51/1986/9).

(e) Analysis at output level

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on evaluating and analysing data from population censuses, surveys and vital registration systems - programme element 2.1

25. Background information. These advisory services were rendered to a number of countries. However, the evaluation below covers nine missions to countries on which responses were received. These nine missions were carried out in the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Gambia, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Zaire, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. However, assistance had also been provided to Burundi, Malawi, Mauritania, the Niger and Sao Tome and Principe. The purpose for each of the missions is shown in annex I.

26. Evaluation. An evaluation questionnaire was sent to 12 countries on 14 missions. Responses were obtained on nine missions, which represents a response rate of 64.3 per cent. The evaluation was directed to the advisers in terms of technical competence, knowledge of immediate issues addressed, familiarity with the country's socio-economic conditions, assessment of the mission's recommendations, achievement of the mission's immediate objective and action taken by the government to implement the recommendations.

27. Annex II presents an assessment of responses on country missions of the advisory services without identifying the countries by name. In five missions, the advisers' technical competence was rated as excellent while in three cases it was rated as good. In one case, there was no response on the item. The advisers were considered to be knowledgeable of the immediate issues addressed; they were indicated to be familiar with the countries' development conditions; they were also considered to understand the socio-economic conditions in the countries. It was observed in seven missions that the missions accomplished completely the immediate objectives; in two missions the immediate objectives were assessed to have been accomplished substantially and adequately respectively. Assessment of recommendations of missions on relevance, clarity and feasibility were rated in most cases as excellent or very good.

28. In seven missions, countries indicated that they had received the mission reports timely; in two cases, mission reports were not received on time. All the governments except one indicated that they had implemented the mission's recommendations; in some cases immediately and in some other cases with delay. In one country, the delay was due to the fact that data was not yet available from the field; in another country, the delay was due to the fact that some clarification on some of the recommendations had to be sought; and in a third country the recommendations had to be reviewed and approved at a higher authority level before they could be implemented. In one extreme case, the mission's recommendations were never implemented. It was reported that the United Nations expert in data processing just did not take into account the mission's recommendations. The reasons for this are not apparent. The overall impression one gets is that advisory services are serving a useful purpose.

(ii) Advisory services to member States: On-the-job training for nationals in demographic analysis - programme element 2.1

Mauritius (2-26 December 1985)

29. Background information. On-the-job training was provided to the Government of Mauritius to help the nationals carrying out various analytical reports on the 1983 census data finalize some of their reports (analysis on education, housing) and to discuss analysis on migration, fertility, mortality and economic activity with the national analyst assigned to these topics. During an earlier mission, early in 1985 assistance had been provided by ECA to Mauritius. It had focused on training of national demographers and their assistants in the various aspects of data evaluation and analysis. The immediate objective of on-the-job training was to enable local staff to be more efficient in analysis, interpretation and presentation of population and related socio-economic data from censuses or surveys.

30. Evaluation. The secretariat had sent out eight questionnaires and five responses were received. Thus, the response rate was 62.5 per cent. The topics covering on-the-job training were evaluation of data, fertility, mortality, migration, education, housing, economic activity and projections. Nearly all the respondents indicated that these topics were either most useful

or useful to their work. They all indicated that they had either benefitted substantially or sufficiently from the training. With regard to effectiveness, all the five respondents indicated that the training had achieved its immediate objective. Concerning impact of the training, all the five respondents indicated that they had utilized what they had learned and this helped them to prepare comprehensive analytical reports from the 1983 census. All the five respondents also reported that they had shared with other colleagues in the office what they had learned during the training.

The Sudan (19 November - 4 December 1986)

31. Background information. During the period of the ECA mission to the Sudan, assistance was provided to a group of individuals in evaluation and analysis of the 1983 census data. Appropriate training materials for use by local analysts were prepared. In addition, assistance was provided in reviewing the draft on the administrative report for publication, as well as review and finalization of tables which were ready on the Red Sea province. These tables were used for training on evaluation and analysis.

32. Evaluation. The secretariat had sent eight questionnaires; four replies (50 per cent) were received. All the four respondents reported that they either benefitted substantially or sufficiently from the training. In terms of effectiveness of the training, all the four respondents expressed the opinion that the training had achieved its immediate objectives. Finally, with regard to impact, all the four respondents indicated that they had utilized what they had learned from the training and that they had passed on the knowledge to colleagues in the office.

(iii) Advisory services to member States: Middle-level training for statistical clerks of MCH/FP Division of the Ministry of Health, Kenya, 25 February - 16 March 1985 - programme element 2.1

33. Background information. ECA was requested by the Government of Kenya to assist the Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning (MCH/FP) Division of the Ministry of Health in the in-service training of statistical clerks. ECA provided two staff members who assisted the local staff in conduting the training. There were 30 participants at the training, 20 of whom successfully completed the course. The lectures provided by the ECA staff members were on: statistics in health, tabulation of data, population dynamics - fertility and mortality, report writing, population distribution and migration, population projections, population in planning, and the interrelationship between population and development. The immediate objective of the in-service training was to train statistical clerks of the MCH/FP Division in collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of data. At the end of the training, an evaluation of the training was undertaken using a questionnaire to which participants responded. Briefly, that evaluation showed that 75 per cent of the participants indicated that the topics covered in the training were very relevant to their job.

34. It is noted that assistance on middle-level training was also provided to the Government of Zambia for 30 participants. Questionnaires had been sent to evaluate this output. However, there is no indication that replies were received. Middle-level training was also provided to Nigeria but this is not being evaluated.

35. Evaluation. The present evaluation is divided into two parts as there were two sets of questionnaires administered for this purpose. Hence there are parts A and B in the analysis.

Part A

36. The secretariat sent out 28 questionnaires and 20 responses were received, i.e., a response rate of 71.4 per cent. Nearly all respondents rated the topics included either as most useful or useful to their work (see annex III, A-1). Regarding coverage of the topics, the majority of those who responded to this item said it was adequate (about 30 per cent of the respondents did not reply to this item) (see annex III, A-2). The majority of respondents reported either that they benefitted sufficiently or substantially from the training (see annex III, A-3). It is worth noting from annex III, A-3 that a significant portion of trainees (35 per cent) reported that they benefitted insufficiently from practical applications of techniques and tools.

37. Regarding the quality of the documents prepared for the training, six trainees rated them as excellent, five rated them as very good and nine rated them as good. It was noted that 16 trainees felt that the training was effective in achieving its immediate objectives while only four felt it was not effective. Assessing the impact of the training based on the utilization of what they had learned, the majority (14) of the trainees indicated that the training had an impact; only six indicated it had no impact. Nearly all the trainees indicated that they had passed on to other colleagues in the office what they had learned during the training.

Part B

38. The secretariat sent out 28 questionnaires; 21 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 75 per cent. It is observed that nearly all the trainees reported that the topics included were either most useful or useful to their work (see annex III, B-1). Among those who responded to the question on adequacy in coverage of topics, the majority reported that coverage was adequate (see annex III, B-2). Overall, the majority of the trainees indicated that they benefitted either substantially or sufficiently from the training (see annex III, B-3). However, concerning practical applications of techniques and tools, 33.3 per cent of the trainees reported that they had benefitted insufficiently.

39. The trainees rated the quality of the documents prepared for the training as follows: three rated them as excellent, five rated them as very good, 12 rated them as good and only one felt they were poor. It was the feeling of the majority (15) of the trainees that the training had been effective

in achieving its immediate objectives; only four indicated it was ineffective; two did not reply to the question on this. Concerning assessment of the impact of the training based on utilization of what they had learned during the training, 16 trainees said it had an impact while five said it had no impact. It was observed that 18 of the 21 respondents indicated that they had passed on to colleagues in the office what they had learned during the training.

(iv) Regional Training Workshop on Techniques of Fertility and Mortality Analysis, 19 November - 28 December 1984, Addis Ababa

40. Background information. The workshop was undertaken to implement programme element 2.2. The immediate objective of the workshop was to provide nationals whose countries took part in the World Fertility Survey (WFS) with training in analysis of data from their countries on infant and childhood mortality and its relation to fertility using computer programmes on SPSS in order to allow them to prepare analytical reports. ECA was assisted by three consultants from the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and former staff of WFS. UNFPA provided financial support to the project on the training workshop. There were 14 participants at the workshop from Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and the Sudan.

41. The topics covered during the workshop were (a) some problems with the use of background variables in the analysis of infant and child morality; (b) effects of childhood mortality on fertility; (c) mortality as the dependent variable: approaches and problems; (d) framework for the analysis of childhood mortality; (e) the effects of maternal age and birth order on mortality; (f) effects of birth spacing and family size; and (g) applications of SPSS.

42. Evaluation. The secretariat sent out 14 questionnaires; six responses were received, representing a response rate of 42.9 per cent. The results are summarized as follows:

(a) Quality of lectures by the three consultants: participants rated the lectures as good, very good or excellent. There were no ratings of poor or very poor;

(b) Usefulness of topics to work: respondents reported generally that topics covered at the workshop as most useful to their work. They all stated that the workshop had achieved its immediate objective;

(c) Impact: all the respondents indicated that they had utilized the knowledge acquired during the workshop. This is supported by the fact that the respondents and those who did not respond to the questionnaire had prepared analytical studies in their respective countries and those studies were presented at a subsequent workshop in Addis Ababa (17-21 March 1986). The studies have finally been published by ECA under the title Infant and childhood mortality and socio-economic factors in Africa (Analysis of national World Fertility Survey data), 1987.

43. One serious problem worth mentioning was that relating to inadequate interpretation services as participants were drawn from both English- and French-speaking African countries. The need to have separate workshops for each group was expressed when organizing future workshops.

(v) Research

44. In its 1984-1985 and 1986-1987 biennial programme budget, the secretariat had programmed to undertake a number of studies in relation to the strategy in the 1984-1989 MTP in an attempt to find solutions to the problems addressed in the MTP. The evaluation covers four of the studies undertaken between 1984 and 1986. Details of the evaluation of each of these studies is presented in annex IV.

(a) Niveaux, tendances, facteurs de la fecondite au Cameroun, au Kenya et au Senegal, document ECA/PD/WP/1985/4, 1 February 1985 - programme element 2.2

45. Background information. The study covered three countries, namely Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal. The immediate objective of the study was to study levels, trends and determinants of fertility in these three countries. The data used was that from national surveys undertaken as part of the World Fertility Survey.

46. Evaluation. As shown in annex IV, the secretariat mailed 81 questionnaires to evaluate the study; 13 questionnaires were returned to the secretariat. Of these, only two questionnaires were useable as the respondents to 11 of the questionnaires indicated that they did not receive the study that was being evaluated. This represents an effective response rate of 2.9 per cent. Thus, no meaningful results can be obtained in evaluating only two questionnaires. However, the responses can be briefly summarized: one respondent had received the study being evaluated timely while the other did not receive it in time. Timely is in relation to the date the study was prepared and the time it reached the end-user. One rated the quality of the study as very good and the other as good. One respondent regarded the study as very useful and the other as useful. Regarding effectiveness of the study, one respondent said it was fully effective while the other indicated that it was substantially effective. Finally, one respondent indicated that the study had contributed fully to the achievement of the objective of the subprogramme while the other rated the contribution as sufficient. Though the overall observation based on the two respondents regarding quality, usefulness, effectiveness and contribution of the study to the broad objectives of the subprogramme is favourable, one cannot say with any confidence that this is representative of all the respondents.

(b) Impact de l'évolution du role de la femme sur la fecondité. Cas de quelques pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, document ECA/[illegible]/POP/86/2.3a - programme element 2.3(a)

47. Background information. The objective of the study was to establish the relationship between the status of women and the level of fertility. The study covered the following five countries: Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. Data used was mainly based on national fertility surveys carried out in these countries as part of the World Fertility Survey.

48. Evaluation. The secretariat had mailed out 194 questionnaires; only 15 questionnaires were returned. Of these, 14 were usable while one respondent indicated that the document under evaluation was not received. The response rate was 7.2 per cent. There were eight respondents who indicated that they had received the study in time; four did not receive it timely while two did not respond to the question. On the quality of the study, seven respondents said it was very good, six rated it as good and one rated it as poor. The study was found to be extremely useful by one respondent; three rated it as very useful; nine rated it as useful; and only one respondent indicated that it was not useful enough. In terms of effectiveness, four respondents rated it as substantially effective, another four as sufficiently effective, three as insufficiently effective; one indicated it was not at all effective while two did not respond to the question on effectiveness. Regarding contribution of the study to the broad objectives of the subprogramme, six respondents indicated that it had contributed either substantially or sufficiently; three rated the contribution as insufficient; two felt it did not contribute at all to the achievement of the broad objective of the subprogramme. The overall impression of the 14 respondents on the study is observed to be good. The low response rate is, however, cause for concern.

(c) Mortality levels, patterns and differentials in Africa: A comparative analysis for selected countries in Southern Africa, document ECA/TP/POP/86/2.4, 17 November 1986 - programme element 2.4

49. Background information. The study focused on estimates of mortality levels and trends, analysis of mortality differentials; it also dealt with policy implications. The study covered the following five Southern African countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The data used in the study was mainly from the last two most recent censuses in each country.

50. Evaluation. The total number of questionnaires sent out for evaluation of the study was 137; only seven questionnaires were received completed, a response rate of 5.1 per cent. It was noted that three of the respondents indicated that they received the study timely while two stated they did not receive it in time; two did not respond to the question. On the overall quality of the study, five stated that it was very good and two as good. In terms of usefulness, three respondents indicated that the study was very useful, three as useful while one respondent felt that it was not useful enough. Concerning the impact/effectiveness, the respondents' ratings were as follows: one fully effective; one substantially effective; four sufficiently effective; and one insufficiently effective. The overall results based on the seven respondents regarding quality, usefulness,

effectiveness/impact of the study is considered to be favourable. However, the low response rate is of great concern as it is difficult to make concrete generalizations based on only seven responses while 137 questionnaires had been mailed to respondents.

(d) Interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries, document ECA/PD/WP/1985/10, 4 October 1985 - programme element 2.5

51. Background information. The study covered the following countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria and the Sudan. It used data from the national fertility surveys as part of the World Fertility Survey. The immediate objective of the study was to identify determinants which influence the relationship between infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility.

52. Evaluation. The secretariat sent out 42 questionnaires of which 10 responses were received. Of the 10 responses, only two were useable as the other eight indicated that they did not receive the document of the study they were requested to evaluate. The effective response rate was 5.9 per cent. One cannot make any meaningful analysis out of only two replies. Both respondents said that they did not receive the document in time. One of them indicated that the overall quality of the study was good while the other did not respond to that question. They rated the usefulness of the study as either very useful or useful. Both indicated that the study was substantially effective. Regarding contribution of the study to the broad objective of the subprogramme, one respondent indicated that it contributed sufficiently while the other did not respond to the question. Looking at the results of the two respondents as they are, overall they are favourable in terms of quality, usefulness and effectiveness of the study. One cannot, however, make any generalization out of this. The serious problem in evaluation of the study was the poor response rate as well as the fact that eight of the 10 respondents never received the study under evaluation.

(vi) Publications on population

53. The publications being evaluated are the African Population Newsletter, the Demographic Handbook for Africa and the Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets for ECA member States. Each of these publications is evaluated separately below and statistical data is shown in annex V.

(a) African Population Newsletter (July-December 1986) - programme element 2.8

54. Background information. This publication carries short articles on population and related activities in Africa and elsewhere in the world that are of interest to Africa. It is published twice a year in both English and French. The publication is intended to promote and enhance awareness of population issues in development among policy makers, planners, researchers

and the public in general in Africa. Issue no. 51 of the Newsletter focused on fertility and family planning in the context of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA) and the International Conference on Population (ICP) in Mexico in 1984.

55. Evaluation. The number of questionnaires sent out for evaluation of the Newsletter was 1,089, of which 99 completed questionnaires were received. This represents a response rate of 9.1 per cent. Although the questionnaire used had so many items, most of them were not relevant as the questionnaire that was administered was intended for technical research studies. Hence, we look at the evaluation on selected relevant characteristics of the publication.

56. Regarding dissemination of the publication, 42.4 per cent of the respondents indicated that they received the publication timely; 33.3 per cent stated that they did not receive it in time while 24.2 per cent did not indicate whether they had received the publication in time or not. There was a considerable number of respondents from outside of Africa. The evaluation should be aimed at end-users in Africa. In a number of cases, questionnaires sent to institutions like libraries came back uncompleted due to the fact that those in charge of libraries or similar institutions are not necessarily end-users. The end-users are those who come to make use of the materials in libraries. Such end-users are difficult to identify and are not reflected in the mailing list.

57. Annex V, part A presents figures on respondents' assessment of the African Population Newsletter. Assessment of overall quality of the publication was rated as being excellent by about 5.1 per cent of the respondents; very good by about 26.3 per cent; good by about 64.6 per cent; while about 3 per cent felt the quality was poor. Regarding overall usefulness of the publication, the assessment was as follows: extremely useful: 4 per cent; very useful: 45.5 per cent; useful: 38.4 per cent; not useful enough: 6.1 per cent; not useful at all: 1 per cent; no response to the question: 5.1 per cent.

58. Some of the suggestions by respondents on the publication included the following: need to improve the editing; to speed up distribution after publication; need to include events on population activities in various countries; need to include experiences from other developing countries outside Africa; need to improve printing; need to include a section in the Newsletter on recent publications.

(b) Demographic Handbook for Africa, published in July 1984 - programme element 2.6

59. Background information. The Handbook brings together demographic data from various sources on major demographic indicators in member States. It is published every two years. The purpose of the Handbook is to facilitate the evaluation of demographic trends in the African region. The Handbook under review had sections covering the following topics: population

distribution and growth rates; land area and population density; population distribution by age and sex; urbanization; fertility; and mortality.

60. Evaluation. Of the 140 questionnaires sent out, only 13 completed questionnaires were received. This represents a response rate of 9.3 per cent. It was observed that five of the 13 respondents said they had received the publication timely; another five stated they did not receive it in time while three did not indicate whether they had recieved it in time or not.

61. Annex V, part B presents the figures on the 13 respondents' assessment of the quality and usefulness of the Handbook. Assessment of overall quality was rated as excellent by two of the respondents; five rated it as very good; six rated it as good while no one rated it as poor or very poor. In terms of overall usefulness, two respondents indicated that it was extremely useful; six stated that it was very useful; three rated it as useful, one gave a rating that it was not useful enough while one did not respond to the question. Thus the combined rating of excellent and very good was about 61.5 per cent and those indicating a rating of good were 23.1 per cent of the respondents. As was the case with the Newsletter, the questionnaire had a number of questions which were not relevant to the evaluation of the publication.

(c) Demographic and Related Socio-economic Data Sheets for ECA member States, 1986 - programme element 2.6

62. Background information. The objective of the publication is to present summary demographic and socio-economic data pertaining to ECA member States. This issue being evaluated is the second since its introduction. It is intended to be published every two years during the years when the Demographic Handbook is not published. The data is merely presented on each country without any analysis. All the sources of data are given. The publication is directed to planners, demographers and researchers in both government and private sectors.

63. Evaluation. Out of 265 questionnaires sent out, only 27 completed questionnaires were received, i.e., a response rate of 10.2 per cent. It was noted that 17 (about 63 per cent) of the respondents said they had received the publication in time; 22.2 per cent did not receive it timely; and 14.8 per cent did not indicate whether they had received it in time or not after its publication.

64. Annex V, part C shows respondents' assessment of the data sheets regarding quality and usefulness. It is observed that 7.4 per cent of the respondents rated the overall quality of the publication as excellent; 37 per cent as very good; 51.9 per cent as good; and about 3.7 per cent rated it as poor. In terms of overall usefulness, 11.1 per cent of the respondents think the publication is extremely useful; 40.7 per cent rate it as very useful; another 40.7 per cent as useful; 3.7 per cent as not useful enough; and 3.7 per cent as not useful at all. Here too, the administered questionnaire had many items not relevant to the evaluation of the publication.

65. Overall view on the assessment of the publications. The overall assessment of the three publications is that their quality, in general, is satisfactory and the respondents consider them to be serving a useful purpose. There is need, however, for the secretariat to improve all aspects of these publications. The secretariat should also devise means of focusing on identifiable end-users within the African region to improve the response rate to such evaluations. To facilitate follow-up on identification of who are the ultimate end-users of a given output, some method should be devised whereby when a document is sent out it should include a form which the recipient should complete and return to the secretariat as a means of acknowledging receipt of the document. Such information would at a later stage form the basis as to whom to send the questionnaires in evaluating any given output.

Annex I

PURPOSE OF ADVISORY SERVICES RENDERED

1. Assistance to the Sudan Census Office of the Department of Statistics, 26 January - 9 February 1984. The purpose of the mission was to (a) scrutinize coding, editing and pre-tabulation procedures to ensure smooth completion of computer analysis of 1983 census; (b) assist in drawing a general plan for the preparation of the census administrative report.

2. Assistance to Tanzania Census Office of the Bureau of Statistics, 15-20 December 1986. The purpose of the mission was to assist the Census Office in the preparation for the 1988 census, particularly in respect of tabulation plans and analysis of data.

3. Assistance to the Gambia Central Statistical Office, 10-17 August 1985. The mission's objective was to discuss tabulation plans and preparations for census analysis.

4. Assistance to the Djibouti Census Office, 14 April - 5 May 1985. The purpose of the mission was "Controle de tabulation - Redressement des données du recensement".

5. Assistance to the Equatorial Guinea Census Office, 19 November - 19 December 1985. The purpose of the mission was "Definir les specifications pour le controle et les textes de coherence lors de la saisie des donnees de recensement".

6. Assistance to the Zaire Census Office, 30 March - 13 April 1984. The purpose of the mission was "Participer aux travaux de preparation du questionnaire de l'enquete post-censitaire, de la determination de l'echantillion, de la preparation de la conduite des operations sur le train, de depouillement, d'analyse et de publication des resultants".

7. Assistance to the Zaire Census Office, 4-17 June 1986. The purpose of the mission was "Preparer des textes pour le controle d'amplitude lors de la saisie et des textes de coherence".

8. Assistance to the Burkina Faso National Institute of Statistics and Population, 16-26 October 1986. The purpose of the mission was "Examiner du projet de plan de tabulation de donnees du recensement".

9. Assistance to Cote d'Ivoire Direction de la Statistique, 13-31 July 1986. The purpose of the mission was "Examiner de l'ensemble des problemes d'analyse des données du recensement 1988".

Annex II

Assessment of advisory services to member States, on request, on evaluation and analysing data from censuses, surveys and vital registration systems

	COUNTRY MISSIONS								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rating of adviser									
(a) Technical competence	Excellent	Good	-	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
(b) Knowledge of immediate issues addressed	Excellent	Good	-	Very good	Good	Excellent	Very good	Good	Very good
(c) Familiarity with the country's development conditions	Very good	Good	-	Very good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
(d) Understanding of the country's socio-economic conditions	Very good	Good	-	Very good	Good	Very good	Good	Good	Good
Extent to which mission accomplished its immediate objective	Completely	Substantially	Adequately	Completely	Completely	Completely	Completely	Completely	Completely
Assessment of mission's recommendations									
(a) Relevance	Excellent	Very good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	-	Excellent	Very good
(b) Clarity	Excellent	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Excellent	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Very good
(c) Feasibility	Very good	Good	Good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Good
(d) Overall quality	Very good	Good	Good	Very good	Good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Very good
Did the Government receive mission report timely?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Was action taken to implement recommendations of the mission?	Yes (after some delay)	Yes (after some delay)	Yes (after some delay)	Yes (immediately)	Never	Yes (after some delay)	Yes (40% immediately 35% after some delay 5% never)	Yes (immediately)	Yes (after some delay)

Annex III

ADVISORY SERVICES TO MEMBER STATES: MIDDLE LEVEL TRAINING OF STATISTICAL CLERKS OF MCH/FP DIVISION THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN KENYA, 25 FEBRUARY TO 16 MARCH 1985, P.E. 2.1

Part A

A-1 Rating by trainees of usefulness of topics covered to work.

	Most useful	Useful	Least useful	No response
(a) Statistics in health	13	7	--	
(b) Tabulation of data	11	9	--	
(c) Population dynamics: fertility and mortality	11	9		
(d) Report writing	9	10	1	1

A-2 Rating by trainees of coverage of topics

	Adequate	Inadequate	No response
(a) Statistics in health	9	5	6
(b) Tabulation of data	11	3	6
(c) Population dynamics: fertility and mortality	8	6	6
(d) Report writing	9	6	5

A-3 The extent to which trainees reported they benefited from the training.

	Substantially	Sufficiently	Insufficiently	No response
(a) Introduction of new topics	5	14	1	
(b) Understanding of problems and issues	3	15	2	
(c) Practical applications of techniques and tools	4	9	7	
(d) Exchange of experience	3	12	3	2
(e) Ability to perform one's job	4	14	1	1

A-4 Trainees rating of documents prepared for training
Excellent (6), very good (5), Good (9), Poor (0), very poor (0)

A-6 Trainees opinion on effectiveness of the training in achieving the immediate objectives:

Effective (16), not effective (4)

A-7 Trainees assessment of impact of the training based on utilization of what they had learned during the training:

Had an impact (14), no impact (6)

A-8 Trainees assessment of impact by whether they passed on or not to other colleagues in the office / What they had learned at the training:

Passed on (17), did not pass on (3).

Part B

B-1 Rating by trainees of usefulness of topics covered to work

		Most useful	Useful	Least useful	No response
(a)	Population distribution & migration	9	11	1	1
(b)	Population projections	15	5		1
(c)	Population in planning	10	10	1	
(d)	Interrelationship between population and development	6	13		2

B-2 Rating by trainees of coverage of topics

		Adequate	Inadequate	No response
(a)	Population distribution & migration	13	3	5
(b)	Population projections	12	4	5
(c)	Population in planning	10	6	5
(d)	Interrelationship between population and development	9	8	4

B-3 The extent to which trainees reported they benefited from the training

	Substantially	Sufficiently	Insufficiently	No response
(a) Introduction of new topics	6	13	2	
(b) Understanding of problems and issues	6	12	2	1
(c) Practical applications of techniques and tools	4	9	7	1
(d) Exchange of experience	4	12	4	1
(e) Ability to perform one's job	3	16	2	

B-4 Trainees rating of documents prepared for training
Excellent (3), Very good (5), Good (12), Poor (1), Very poor (0)

B-6 Trainees opinion on effectiveness of the training in achieving the immediate objectives:

Effective (15), not effective (4), no response (2)

B-7 Trainees assessment of impact of the training based on utilization of what they had learned during the training:

Had an impact (16), no impact (5)

B-8 Trainees assessment of impact by whether they had passed on or not to other colleagues in the office what they had learned at the training:

Passed on (18), did not pass on (3).

Annex IV

Evaluation of research and policy analysis studies

Variables used in evaluation / Title of study	Interrelationships among infant & child mortality, socio-economic factors & fertility in selected African countries a/	Niveaux, tendances facteurs de la fecondite au Cameroun, au Kenya et au Senegal b/	Impact de l'evolution du role de la femme sur la fecondite. Cas de quelques pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest c/	Mortality levels, patterns and differentials in Africa: A comparative analysis for selected countries in Southern Africa d/
Dissemination				
Number of questionnaires sent out	42	81	184	137
Number of respondents who received the study	2	2	14	7
Number of respondents who did not receive the study	8	11	1	-
Total respondents	10	13	15	7
Of those who received the study number reporting timely receipt		1	8	3
Number reporting delays in receipt	2	1	4	2
No response			2	2
Effective response rate to questionnaires taking into account those who received the study under evaluation and leaving out those who did not receive it (%)	5.0	2.0	7.2	5.1

Variables used in evaluation \ Title of study	Interrelationships among infant & child mortality, socio-economic factors & fertility in selected African countries a/	Niveaux, tendances facteurs de la fecondite au Cameroun, au Kenyc et au Senegal b/	Impact de l'evolution du role de la femme sur la fecondite. Cas de quelques pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest c/	Mortality levels, patterns and differentials in Africa: A comparative analysis for selected countries in Southern Africa d/
Overall quality of study				
Number reporting:				
Excellent		1	7	5
Very good	1	1	6	2
Good			1	
Poor				
No response	1			
Usefulness of study				
			1	
Extremely useful			3	3
Very useful	1	1	9	3
Useful	1		1	1
Not useful enough				
Effectiveness of study				
		1		1)
Fully effective		1	4	1 (
Substantially effective	2		4	4) e/
Sufficiently effective			3	1 (
Insufficiently effective			1	
Not at all effective			2	
No response				

Annex IV cont'd

Variables used in evaluation \ Title of study	Interrelationships among infant & child mortality, socio-economic factors & fertility in selected African countries a/	Niveaux, tendances fecteure de la fecondite au Cameroun, au Kenya et au Senegal b/	Impact de l'evolution du role de la femme sur la fecondite. Cas de quelques pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest c/	Mortality levels, patterns and differentials in Africa: A comparative analysis for selected countries in Southern Africa d/
Contribution to achievement of broad objective of subprogramme				
Fully		1	2	)
Substantially			4	(
Sufficiently	1	1	3	(f/
Insufficiently			2	)
Not at all			3	(
No response	1			

a/ Programme element 2.5 of 1984-1985 work programme.

b/ Programme element 2.2 of 1984-1985 work programme.

c/ Programme element 2.3 of 1986-1987 work programme.

d/ Programme element 2.4 of 1986-1987 work programme.

e/ Impact/effectiveness.

f/ Not appliceble.

Annex V

EVALUATION OF SOME PUBLICATIONS

A. African Population Newsletter No. 51 (July - December 1986), P.E.2.8.

There were 99 completed questionnaires out of 1089 questionnaires sent out; thus the response rate was 9.1 per cent.

Quality of the publication

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	No respons.
Presentation/ format	7	31	54	7	--	--
Reliability of data	8	36	40	6	--	9
Up-to-date	9	27	46	10	2	5
Over all quality	5	26	64	3	-	1

Usefulness of publication

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Useful	Not useful enough	Not useful at all	No response
Information/ increased awareness	21	43	29	4	-	2
Overall usefulness	4	45	38	6	1	5

B. Demographic Handbook for Africa, published in July 1984, P.E. 2.6.

There were 140 questionnaires mailed out and only 13 completed questionnaires were received back, a response rate of 9.3 per cent.

Quality of publication

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	No response
Presentation/format	4	5	4	-	-	-
Reliability of data	1	5	3	3	-	1
Up-to-date	1	4	2	4	1	1
Coverage of subject (content)	3	6	4	-	-	-
Over all quality	2	5	6	-	-	-

Usefulness of publication

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Useful	Not useful enough	No response
Information/increased awareness	4	5	4	-	-
Over all usefulness	2	6	3	1	1

C. Demographic and related socio-economic data sheets for ECA member States 1986, P.E. 2.6.

The secretariat had mail out 265 questionnaires; 27 completed questionnaires were received back. Thus the response rate was 10.2 per cent.

Quality of the publication

	Excellent	Very good	Good	poor	Very poor
Presentation/format	3	9	13	2	-
Reliability of data	6	7	11	3	-
Up-to-Date	3	6	10	8	-
Coverage of subject (content)	3	12	10	2	-
Over all quality	2	10	14	1	-

Usefulness of publication

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Useful	Not useful enough	Not useful at all
Information/increased awareness	5	12	9	-	1
Overall usefulness	3	11	11	1	1

Annex VI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CPC EVALUATION OF POPULATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(Summarized from DOC.E/AC 51/1986/9)

A. Research and policy analysis

Findings

(i) Substantially or completely fulfilled immediate purposes, thus contributing to achievement of subprogramme objectives

(ii) Reports and publications considered useful tools for collection and analysis of data for research on population issues and for the formulation of population policies and national development planning

(iii) Quality of outputs good but poor utilisation

(iv) Poor utilisation due to some internal factors like:

(a) Incomplete and unreliable information
(b) Out of date information
(c) Weakness in distribution
(d) Lack of lucidity in presentation and need for clarity and readability
(e) Not specific and relevent to country/region situations.

Recommendations

(i) Lay greater emphasis on collection and analysis of basic demographic and related socio economic data

(ii) Strengthen technical co-operation activities particularly country projects and regional advisory services on data collection and analysis

(iii) Fill gaps in data by refined methodologies

(iv) Provide more training facilities especially designed to assist countries in the use of guidelines for analysis, methods, techniques and manuals

(v) Improve clarity and readability of materials

(vi) Build up country profiles with not only demographic socio economic data but also on socio cultural aspects

(vii) Ensure timeliness of publications and improve presentation. Translations (French) should be improved.

B. Operational activities

Findings

(i) Implementation of country projects successful in terms of co-ordination of inputs and their timely delivery. However, some projects affected by delays and difficulties in project management attributed to slow process of obtaining final decisions and authorisation from Headquarters

(ii) Regional advisory services intended to support country projects related to censuses etc. considered as highly useful but some problems of project implementation were revealed in addition to delays in implementation of suggestions and recommendations caused in part by problems relating to individual advisory services (inappropriate choice of adviser) and late submission of mission reports and inadequate planning and co-ordination of activities and inputs, time consuming procedures and weak administrative support for project management.

Recommendations

(i) Improvement in recruitment of experts and consultants by preferring those with local knowledge and familiarity with similar countries and those with proven ability

(ii) Administrative support by timely and co-ordinated delivery of inputs and redesigning backstopping procedures

(iii) Systematic monitoring of implementation and self-evaluation procedures and strengthening of the procedures

(iv) Clear statement of short and long term objectives

(v) Simplify procedures for formulation and approval of project document

(vi) Formulate work plans to take account of complementary activities such as advisory services to facilitate co-ordinated implementation

(vii) Co-ordinate advisory services of headquarters and regional commissions

(viii) Ensure submission of mission reports on time with minimum delays.

C. End users, mailing lists, distribution and feedback

Findings

(i) Extent to which end users were being reached less satisfactory thus diminishing the significance of the general high quality and usefulness of outputs and reducing their impact

(ii) Mailing lists out of date

(iii) Materials received late, incomplete or not all all by users

(iv) Inadequate awareness of publication and documents by potential users.

Recommendations

(i) Conduct detailed readership survey

(ii) Based on readership survey, review and revise mailing lists and prepare target end users

(iii) Include in each publication a list of publications produced by other units in related subject areas and also include addresses of bookstores and libraries where United Nations publications on population are available in each country

(iv) Establish new mechanisms or systematize existing ones for obtaining feedback on end user opinions on outputs

(v) Make promotional efforts to raise awareness of availability of research outputs on population questions in co-operation with all entities concerned in the United Nations.